

NOTE: This part should follow a general discussion.

Part B - Storage Expenses

Sec. 311.

This section ~~would extend~~ ^{extend} to all agencies authority for payment of storage expenses similar to that now available to those agencies authorized to exercise certain authorities of the Foreign Service Act.

Subsection (a) amends the language of sections 911(4) and (5) of the Foreign Service Act to include certain provisions at one time carried in the Department of State's Appropriation Acts and now appearing in Section 2(b) of PL 84-885. The "emergency" limitation of section 911(4) of the Foreign Service Act is eliminated, as it has been superseded for all practical purposes by the above referenced section of PL 84-885. The present language is designed to provide authority to pay storage and related costs in those instances (1) when an employee either cannot take or cannot use his effects at the post of assignment, or (2) when it would be in the public interest or more economical, as for example in lieu of quarters allowance payments while an employee is away from his post under orders, or in lieu of payment of transportation costs from one location to another.

The language of the amendments to Sections (4) and (5) of the Foreign Service Act basically follows the existing statutory language. There are three minor exceptions, however, which are discussed below:

- 1) the phrase "pay the cost of packing and unpacking" has been added to provide a statutory base to the long established practice of considering such costs as incident to the authority to transport and store goods. The new language does not change existing practices;
- 2) for the first time specific statutory language is provided to limit the weight or volume of effects being stored or transported.

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This language "in no instance shall the weight or volume of the effects stored together with the weight or volume of the effects transported exceed the maximum limitations fixed by regulations, when not otherwise fixed by law" reflects the policy currently followed in the regulations of the Department of State. These regulations have been in existence for many years and appear in 1 FSM III, Section 161.6;

3) authority is provided for the first time to permit the cost of packing and unpacking, transporting to and from a place of storage, and storing for a period not to exceed three months of the household effects of employees who are being separated from the Service. In the past employees have had to pay these costs themselves while awaiting the time when they could make a firm decision as to their permanent place of residence. It seems reasonable that the employee should have a brief time when their goods could be stored while they are making arrangements for permanent residence, after having served in the majority of cases many years abroad.